

**Observer Corps Report – Albuquerque City Council meeting  
20 November and 4 December 2023  
Mary Mulvany/Janet Kirkpatrick**

All nine councilors were present at the November 20 and December 4 meetings: Louie Sanchez – District 1, Isaac Benton – District 2, Klarissa Peña – District 3, Brook Bassan – District 4, Dan Lewis – District 5, Pat Davis – District 6, Tammy Fiebelkorn – District 7, Trudy Jones – District 8, Renée Grout, District 9.

**Industrial Revenue Bond – Maxeon Solar Technologies**

At the November 20 meeting the City Council voted unanimously to pass two ordinances relating to Maxeon Solar Technologies' construction of a solar panel manufacturing site to be located at Mesa del Sol. [O-23-90](#) authorizes issuance of \$2.4 Billion in industrial revenue bonds. [O-23-91](#) authorizes \$20 Million Local Economic Development Act (LEDA) money toward the project. The city provides \$2 Million and the state provides \$18 Million. Maxeon estimates the facility will employ 1500 people. The mayor signed the ordinances on December 5th.

**United Soccer Stadium Lease at Balloon Fiesta Park**

At the November 20 meeting the City Council voted on approval of a lease agreement which allows the United soccer team to build a stadium at Balloon Fiesta Park. Twenty-six members of the community spoke in favor of the lease, including three individuals who live in the area and a Balloon Fiesta Vendor who cited the planned infrastructure improvements as a benefit to the Balloon Fiesta. Ten members of the community spoke against the lease approval citing concerns about ambiguous lease terms and lack of restrictions on fireworks and noise levels.

The council approved the lease agreement in a seven to two vote. Councilors Benton, Davis, Fiebelkorn, Jones, Lewis, Peña, and Sanchez voted in favor of the lease agreement. Councilors Bassan and Grout voted against the agreement, citing concerns about the lack of detail in the lease agreement. [EC-375](#)

**Air Quality Control Board**

Recap: at the November 8 meeting the City Council passed two bills related to the Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Air Quality Control Board. changing it from an independent board to a structure more closely controlled by the City Council. [O-23-88](#) revamped the structure of the board to provide more oversight by the City Council. [R-23-176](#) imposed a moratorium on any action by the Board until February 1, 2024. Both measures passed by a vote of five in favor (Bassan, Grout, Jones, Lewis, Sanchez) to four opposed (Benton, Davis, Fiebelkorn, Peña). Mayor Keller vetoed both measures on November 22, 2023.

At the December 4 meeting the City Council voted to override the mayor's veto of O-23-88 (to change the structure of the Air Quality Control Board) the veto by a vote of seven for (Bassan, Davis, Grout, Jones, Lewis, Peña, Sanchez) to two against (Benton, Fiebelkorn). Councilor Davis stated he voted to override the veto in the interest of creating a more structured process and to avoid intractable litigation. Councilor Peña provided no comment as to why she voted to override the veto despite having voted for the original bill.

At the December 4 meeting the City Council voted to override the mayor's veto of R-23-176 (imposing a moratorium on any action by the Board until February 1, 2024). Six councilors voted to override the veto (Bassan, Grout, Jones, Lewis, Pena, Sanchez). Three councilors voted to sustain the veto (Benton, Davis, Fiebelkorn).

After overriding the mayor's veto, the City Council voted unanimously to create a joint City/County working group to improve the operation of the Albuquerque-Bernalillo County Joint Air Quality Control Board. [R-23-176](#)

### **Departing City Councilors**

The December 4 City Council meeting was the last meeting for three councilors who did not run for reelection. Joaquin Baca replaces Isaac Benton in District 2. Nichole Rogers replaces Pat Davis in District 6. Dan Champine replaces Trudy Jones in District 8.